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LB 364

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I rise to support this amendment. I realize some of the concern of the body as we bring this toward the final days, but it's something that has been brought to our attention I think at least the last three weeks if not a month about the issue and where our present policies are leading us. I...in actuality as I would understand it I think that this is a fairly modest, modest change at this point. It may have some ramifications that I am not sure of as we get down the road, but I think it's something that we've got to change the direction, albeit somewhat, albeit modestly. We can't afford to build forever. I think we all are concerned about keeping those off the street that need to be off the street. I think this policy will continue that. It does offer some options for those that will fall under the new classification. I think it is a reasonable thing to do at this point, and I support the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Brashear. He waives off. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Madam President, I'll yield my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, because some questions were put to me, I'm going to talk about how good time works with reference to this sentencing that we're talking about or any sentencing. Whatever the number of years would be that you are sentenced, you're credited with six months good time for each year that you're sentenced. That good time works in two ways but it counts only once really. You subtract the good time that you would earn from the minimum sentence which doesn't mean you'll serve less time. All it means is that when you've served that amount of your minimum sentence less the good time you earn the Parole Board can consider you for parole. The Attorney General and others keep giving people the impression that as soon as you're eligible for parole you get it. That's not true. The Parole Board doesn't have to ever give you a parole. Also it's not true to say that when you've served the minimum sentence you have to be released, no, that's not true. If the Parole Board never acts, then you serve all of